

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

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polishing we were more healthy and lived longer. (An hon. Member: We can't eat this unpolished rice.) Just imagine an hon. Gentleman saying that he can't eat this wholesome and good rice! I know how much mud and rotten stuff is adulterated with this rice by unscrupulous millets and that the quantity is reduced by polishing. We have now increased the price of rice only by Re. 0-1-4 per measure. It is not much considering the level of commodity prices. Sir, the difficulties of the food administration are so many that we cannot possibly carry it on successfully for any length of time unless we get the co-operation of the people."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The question is—

'That the food situation in the Province be taken into consideration and upon such consideration this Council recommends to the Government to press upon the Government of India to allot ten lakhs of tons of foodgrains over and above the allotments already made for this year to tide over the serious food situation in the Province.'

"I suppose the Government have no objection."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No, Sir."

The motion was put and passed unanimously.

III.—TEXTILE CONTROL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I move, Sir, that the Textile Control policy of the Government be taken into consideration.

"Sir, I have just now circulated a note on the subject to hon. members. I am sorry it could not be done earlier. If it is the wish of hon. Members that I should read it, I shall do so." (Hon. Members: 'Not necessary.')

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think the intention is more to criticise you than to hear you. You may hear them speak and then reply."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Then I make the formal motion. Sir, when I just entered the House the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition gave me certain questions and asked for information on certain points. I shall give it here as it will be useful to the House.

"The quantity of cloth required for consumption in the Province in a year is 384,000 bales on a per capita basis of 12 yards which was the consumption in pre-war years. The quantity of cloth produced by mills in the Province in a year is 79,700 bales. The quantity of cloth produced by handlooms in the Province in a year is 288,000 bales. I have no information ready with me regarding the quantity of khaddar produced in the Province in a year. The quantity imported annually into the Province from other Provinces and also from outside India is 180,000 bales from Bombay surplus area, but no figures are available about imports from foreign countries. With regard to the quantity of cloth exported from the Province, 4,000 bales used to be exported every month

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until recently. Now on account of the accumulation of stock, freer exports have been permitted and larger quantities have gone out. The actual figures are not available. This is so far as handloom cloth is concerned. No mill cloth is allowed to go out of the Province except 1,000 bales of Binny's for which we get replacements from outside mills. This is the information that I have. So far as the steps taken to make the Province self-sufficient are concerned, licences have been granted for several people to establish mills in this Province and they are awaiting the erection of the mills to improve production in the Province.

Then there is the question whether there is price control for all varieties of cloth imported and sold in the Province. So far as foreign cloth and yarn is concerned, I have already stated that there is no control. The Government of India do not propose to have control over foreign imported cloth and yarn. That has been made clear by me in answer to a question this morning. If there are any further points raised in the course of the discussion, I shall answer them in the end. Then, Sir, the other question put to me is whether there is any patronage in the production, importation and distribution of cloth and if so, the extent of the patronage. My reply is, there is no patronage. The hon. Member did not mean it and I am sure he was not serious when he put the question. I formally move the motion, Sir."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I expected the Hon. Minister to thank the Opposition and thank the Opposition sincerely for giving him an opportunity . . . "

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" He will do it later on."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" But unfortunately, he did not thank us for the opportunity given to him. But I think the statement he has given will supply the information which is sought after by the public very much. I wish, Sir, that this statement had been given to us at least last evening, as the Hon. Minister for Food chose to give us a statement on the Food policy yesterday. We have had no time to study this note and assist the Hon. Minister in the policy which he has adopted. I want to assure the Members of Government that the Opposition, at any rate the Opposition in this House, always wants to co-operate with them in their attempts to improve the lot of the common man, the public, and we would be only very pleased if we can give any assistance to the Hon. Minister for Industries. But unfortunately, this has been placed too late in our hands and I suppose by the time I finish, some of the Members will be able to study and give out their points of view. Apart from this, one thing which has struck me is that this Government are not taking adequate steps to encourage production of cloth and yarn in the Province. Before this particular Government took up office and when Mr. Prakasam's ministry was in office, instead of assisting production, there was a trade against textile mills in the Province and every discouragement was placed in the way of their producing the required quantity of cloth and yarn in the Province and it was

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said that this was done in order to encourage khadder. But I read in the papers the other day that about six hundred thousand yards of cloth have been manufactured but there is no sale for them. Only less than half the quantity has been sold. Supporters of khadder have advanced many arguments, but they also expected that khadder cannot compete in price with mill-made cloth or even hand-loom cloth and also the quality is very coarse and people go in for mill-made cloth if they can or hand-loom cloth, but not khadder. They do not follow the advice of the khadder propagandists. I ask the Government, now that we are free, do not try to compete with machinery. Machinery has come to stay in textile industry; you cannot have hand-made products in this industry to compete with machine-made products. Hand-made motor cars and hand-made aeroplanes cannot compete with machine-made motor cars and machine-made aeroplanes. Sir, machinery has come to stay in this industry. What I would suggest to the Government is, let them have as many mills as possible started in the Province on a co-operative basis. A number of villagers can come together, Government can help them to have a mill on a co-operative basis; they can work the mill and they can take the profits, and there will be more production. What I want to emphasize is this: What is the quantity consumed, you said?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Three hundred and eighty-four thousand bales."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"The quantity consumed, according to the Minister, is nearly four lakhs of bales, but the quantity produced is a very small portion of the quantity consumed, with the result that we have to depend on other Provinces and also other countries for our cloth. There is no control at all for imported cloth; so, if a person imports cloth at Rs. 2 per yard, he can sell it at Rs. 10 a yard, and there would be black-market there and Government do not seem to help people from black-marketing in cloth."

"Now, Sir, cloth is as necessary or nearly as necessary as food. Every man requires cloth and the Government's policy regarding cloth is in my opinion very unsatisfactory. We have not heard anything at all from the Government as to how they help the production of cloth. In fact, in this statement, I read nothing at all regarding the encouragement given to production of cloth in the mills as well as in hand-loom. I ask the Government to have a policy which will enable this Province to be self-sufficient in the matter of the cloth that we want for this Province; let us not import cloth from other Provinces of India or other countries of the world."

"Again, Sir, I am not sure that in the recent policy of giving licences, there has not been some injustice. Sir, this statement shows there were 22,177 retailers in cloth, but only 12,446 out of them have been selected and 1,542 new dealers also were given licences. Nearly half of the old retailers are without their former

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business at all. Similar is also the condition of the wholesalers. It may be that these retailers were not up to the mark, but they had a job and Government it appears have taken away that job from them in working out the scheme of licensing. When this licensing system was introduced in the City, Members of the Legislative Council were asked to recommend dealers. A large number of dealers came to me, particularly Muslim dealers in cloth. The Muslims had an apprehension whether they would get licences, and I assured them that as far as this Government was concerned, I know the Collector and also the Textile Commissioner—to whom I must pay a very good compliment—there was no communalism at all but they would not believe it. Later on, I recommended a few whom I knew and I found out that that apprehension was not justified at all and there was no discrimination against the Muslim dealers. Therefore, I am glad that while Government have made no discrimination at all on the ground of community—they might have made discrimination on the ground of merit—still, there is always a sort of patronage in the licensing and giving of permits and it is likely to be abused. If the Hon. Sitarama Reddi can go into every paper regarding the giving of licences and matters connected with it, of course there will be no patronage and I shall have no complaint whatever; but the position is that neither the Hon. Minister nor the Collector nor the Textile Commissioner can personally attend to everything. It is only a subordinate official who puts up the papers and I am not quite sure whether there has not been any serious injustice done. I have had many complaints in writing also which show that their jobs have been taken away and injustice has been done. In all these cases, injustice is likely and the best course to adopt is not to have this sort of licensing system which leads to patronage, but to produce sufficient cloth in the country and to make the cloth go into a buyer's market and not into a seller's market. To-day all necessities of life including food, cloth and everything else are in the sellers' market and not in the buyers' market. The best thing the Government can do to avoid criticism and to be just and fair to everybody is to encourage production. I ask them to do everything they can possibly do to encourage the mills in existence and the handlooms in existence and also to assist more mills and more handlooms to come into existence and thus solve the cloth problem in this Province by increasing the production and not by distribution and patronage, which is unavoidably and regretfully connected with that kind of distribution where the article is in short supply."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Mr. President, Sir, within the short time we had to glance through the statement kindly furnished by the Hon. Minister for Industries, I have picked out a few points on which I seek information. Regarding the movement of cloth and yarn from the surplus areas we find from what has been narrated here ‘ the movement is not as quick as we wish it to be ’; I would like to know what steps Government have taken to see that the allotted quota for each month is received in this Province, so that cloth may be available to the

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consumers. The second point I wish to ask the Hon. Minister is about the representative buyers and the wholesale consignees. When the Control Order was issued, I remember the Government had an idea of having only wholesalers and retailers and the profit that they proposed to fix on the ex-mill price was to be divided between the wholesaler and the retailer. Is the interposition of this representative buyer and the wholesale consignee, going to affect the profits of the wholesaler and the retailer and also the price for the consumer? If it is going to affect the profit of the wholesaler and the retailer, what functions these representative buyers and wholesale consignees perform and how are they remunerated? Then, Sir, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition drew attention to the figures of wholesale licences and retail licences granted in this Province. Out of 2,094 wholesalers in cloth before, only 601 old wholesalers had got licence and 146 are newcomers. Was there need to choose these newcomers unless all the wholesalers other than the 601 chosen have been guilty of offences against the previous Textile Control Order? The same question I ask about the retailers. The Hon. Minister this morning in the course of an answer to a question said that Government had instructed the Collectors to choose as far as possible wholesalers who had a clean record. What was the necessity to choose these newcomers? Either all the wholesalers who were there were not performing the functions of wholesalers or they were guilty of offences against the order. I should like to have some information on these points. What was the need to cut down the number of wholesalers?

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Sir, we expected in this note, that information to be given. From what I read in the papers, fewer number of wholesalers had to be chosen because of the restricted quota of cloth available and the distribution had to be confined to a restricted number.

Then, the other point that I would like to ask the Hon. Minister for Industries is whether from the experience he has already gained, though I am a co-operator myself, he can say the co-operative organizations have been able to discharge the responsibility they undertook during these two or three months during which they have been in charge of distribution both of cloth as well as yarn. Sir, I raise this question more from the point of view of the consumer in the case of cloth and in the case of yarn from the point of view of the producer of handloom cloth. If these co-operative organizations have been discharging their responsibility satisfactorily, Sir, I think I am one of those who will favour their continuance in handling both cloth and yarn without yielding to the agitation set up by the traders that they should be deprived and the whole thing should be transferred to the normal trade channels. I believe Government chose these co-operative organizations as they practically serve, from the point of view of Government, the purpose of Fair Price Shops and as these are public organizations under the control and supervision of Government, subject to Government audit, the Government felt that they were choosing an organization on which they could rely. If these

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co-operatives have not been able to discharge their responsibility properly, have the Government tried to understand, why they have not been able to do so especially as they have done so well in regard to foodgrains and what steps the Government propose to take to assist these co-operative organizations to come up to the standard they have come to, in regard to the distribution of foodgrains?

"These are a few points that suggested themselves to me, Sir, as I went through this note and I am sure, if these points are cleared a good deal of misunderstanding that prevails regarding the working of the Textile Control Orders will be removed.

"Sir, my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, put a pertinent question and asked the Government, what they have been doing to increase production and he was also good enough to refer to a policy adopted by the previous Congress Ministry. I do not know, if the present Minister for Industries will feel it delicate to throw the blame on the one or the other. But I know, as one interested in the development of textile industry, it was the policy of the previous Congress Ministry that has retarded production ('hear, hear'), and it will take a long time for us to make up the leeway and that is why, Sir, though permits have been granted for so many companies to start fresh spinning mills and weaving mills, as we have not been in the field earlier, we have not been able to secure the machinery that we need and also in recent months, even capital has become very shy. If we had entered the field as in other provinces and in other places they did earlier, perhaps, Sir, a little more production could have been assured both in the handloom and in the mill cloth and perhaps we would not have been made to depend so much on the surplus areas for such large quantities of cloth and yarn required. I do not want to take up the time of the House, Sir, except raising these few points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister for Industries."

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Sir, in replying to one of the questions put by Dr. John, the Hon. Minister calculated the total quantity of cloth allotted to this Province at the rate of 12 yards per adult. Sir, in Bombay they are giving every adult 20 yards of cloth in the City, 18 yards in the suburban areas and 15 or 16 yards in the villages. I do not know why the Hon. Minister for Industries has put our quota of cloth at 12 yards per adult.

"Secondly, he has not mentioned the way in which even these 12 yards of cloth are to be met, whether it is from the mill cloth or from the handloom cloth. If it is from both we would like to know what percentage of mill cloth will be given. Sir, our Province is a poor Province and naturally we should like to have a larger percentage of mill cloth for our people. Therefore, I wish to impress this matter upon the Hon. Minister for Industries so that he may try to get the maximum amount of mill cloth for our people in this Province. Moreover, we people in the South use

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only cotton cloth throughout the year and should therefore get a larger quantity of cotton cloth than the people in the North who use woollen cloth in certain parts of the year.

“ Sir, regarding handloom cloth, the Hon. Minister for Industries said that, since this Province is given large quantity of yarn to be woven into cloth, our quota for mill cloth is reduced so that the consumption of handloom cloth may be increased. Sir, it would be unfair to say that because we manufacture a large quantity of handloom cloth in this Province, we should be compelled to have handloom cloth only and should be deprived of a large proportion of mill cloth. Sir, any casual perusal of the past history of the handloom industry must convince anybody that this industry does not owe its survival to internal consumption but mainly to exports to foreign countries like Ceylon, Burma and Federated Malay States. When during the last war, export of handloom cloth from this Province to those countries was stopped, we know to what hardships the weavers were subjected to on account of the cessation of exports. At that time, the Government were even driven to the necessity of giving relief to the weavers under the Famine Code. The Muslim League and some other philanthropic organizations also came to the rescue of these unfortunate people and organized relief for them. There is no doubt that the handloom industry of this Province owes its existence to exports to foreign countries. That being the case, we must see that a fair percentage of handloom cloth produced by these handloom weavers is exported to foreign countries. Now, Sir, on account of the recent ban on the export of these handloom products consequent on the inclusion of handloom cloth in the rationing scheme, a very large quantity of handloom cloth is lying stagnant in this Province. The merchants engaged in this trade have got on hand a large quantity of handloom cloth worth lakhs of rupees and they are incurring a heavy loss thereby. The various kinds of cloth which are accumulated now cannot be consumed by our Province. They are manufactured solely for the purpose of being exported to foreign countries. I do know, Sir, that the Hon. Minister for Industries would say that it is in the hands of the Government of India to lift the ban on exports. But is it not his duty to see that this industry does not suffer on account of the policy adopted by the Government of India? Is it not incumbent on his part to represent to the Government of India the grievances of the handloom weavers here and see that handloom cloth is allowed to be exported to the Far East and other countries? Sir, this is a matter which is seriously affecting an important section of the people of this Province and, therefore, I appeal to the Hon. Minister for Industries to take steps for relieving the sufferings of both the weavers as well as the merchants engaged in this trade.

“ Sir, regarding yarn, I must say that the yarn given to weavers does not last even for ten days in a month and hence for twenty days in a month they go without work. Thus they are not able to get even a living wage. Therefore, it is necessary that

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the Government of Madras should try to impress upon the Government of India the need for a higher quota of yarn for handloom weavers in this Province. Sir, yarn produced in our Province is sufficient to meet the requirements of handloom weavers here but a portion of it is being exported to the Far Eastern countries. Cannot the Madras Government prevail upon the Government of India to allow us to retain all the yarn which is produced here? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is all, I suppose."

* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, the handloom industry deserves encouragement at the hands of the Government of Madras and I would appeal to the Hon. Minister to take early steps to see that a proper quantity of yarn is allotted to the handloom weavers so that they may carry on their work throughout the month.

" Sir, as regards making our Province self-sufficient, I know that, when the Congress Government came into office, attempts were made in this Province, by certain persons, to start spinning mills. But on account of the policy pursued by the then Government, those mills could not be started. Even persons who were about to float limited companies for the purpose had to give up their idea. If only the Government had extended their helping hand, lakhs of rupees would have been invested and so many mills would have been started. Further, the then Government were not able to get the quota of spindles necessary for our Province from the Government of India.

" Sir, regarding the question of dealers, only 12,446 retailers out of 22,177 have been given licences. This is unfair. These people have been engaged in the trade all their life and what you are going to do for these and their employees who will now be thrown out of employment? Sir, have they been found guilty of grave malpractices?

" So, also in the matter of yarn dealers, the Government should seriously consider whether it is necessary for them to carry out this policy of throwing out of employment, these dealers numbering thousands. The Hon. Minister has not explained in his note the basis on which the wholesale and retail dealers for cloth and yarn have been selected. Is the selection left to the whims and caprices of the Collectors or have any qualifications been laid down which the dealers should satisfy for selection? My hon. Friend, Dr. John, said that he was satisfied that Muslims had not been left out. If figures about the total number of Muslim dealers in the Province and the number selected under the Textile Control policy are given, it will enable us to verify the correctness of the statement of Dr. John."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the hon. Member need not take time fishing out points. If he has points ready he may speak on them."

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* K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ With regard to the distribution of yarn, this morning a complaint was made about the non-availability of finer counts of yarn. But I have been receiving complaints, especially from weavers in the Tirunelveli district, that they are not able to get lower counts of yarn which they have been accustomed to use in their handlooms. I request the Hon. Minister to consider this point.

“ As regards the distribution of yarn through the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, I have to point out that the Society is new to this kind of work and it has not got sufficient number of depots. Anybody can witness hundreds of weavers waiting at the Walajah Road Emporium of the Society from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and returning disappointed. Weavers residing in Krishnampet and Triplicane have to come all the way to the Walajah Road Emporium. It would have been better if depots had been opened in the quarters of the weavers themselves, instead of making them walk several miles wasting their time and return disappointed. I have received similar complaints from Tenkasi, Kadayannallur and several other places in Tirunelveli district. I request the Hon. Minister for Industries to see that the distribution is so arranged as to facilitate the weavers in securing their quota.”

SRI M. K. SUNDARAMA AYYAR :—“ தலைவர் அவர்களே, ஜவுளி நூல் கட்டுப்பாடு விஷயமாக கனம் மந்திரியார்கள் மிகுந்த சிரத்தையுடன் சிறந்த முறையில் நடத்திவருவதால் ஏதோ சஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்த நெசவுக்காரர்களுக்கும் பொதுஜனங்களுக்கும் அனுகூலங்கள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் இதை அமுல் நடத்துவதில் சில குறைகள் இருக்கத்தான் செய்யிறது. முதலில் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுப்பதில் சர்க்காருடைய திட்டம் வெளி வந்தவுடன், அது புதிதாக இருந்ததால், ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லா கலெக்டர்களும் ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லா சப் சபை அங்கத்தினர்களைக் கலந்து ஆலோசனை செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கூறப்பட்டதால் அவர்களைக் கூப்பிட்டு யோசனை செய்தார்கள். சர்க்காருடைய உத்திரவுப் பிரகாரம் ஒவ்வொரு ஸ்டீம் ஜனங்களுக்கும் ஒவ்வொரு மொத்த ஜவுளி வியாபாரியும், ஒவ்வொரு ஐய்யாயிரம் ஜனங்கள் கொண்ட ஒரு வாகனத்தில் ஒரு சில்லரை வியாபாரியும் நியமனம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று உத்திரவு இருந்தது. அப்படி பார்க்கும்போது மதுரை ஜில்லா வில் 26 ஸ்டீம் ஜனத்தொகை இருக்கிறது. ஏற்கனவே பழய கட்டுப்பாடு இருந்த காலத்திலும் சரி பின்னாலும் சரி மதுரை ஜில்லாவில் சுமார் நூறு பெரிய வியாபாரிகளும் 500 சொசைம் சில்லரை ஜவுளி வியாபாரிகளும் இருந்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது வந்த உத்திரவுப்படி ஒரு ஸ்டீம் ஜனத்தொகைக்கு ஒரு பெரிய ஜவுளி வியாபாரிபென்றால் நம் மதுரை ஜில்லாவிற்கு இப்பொழுது 26 மொத்த வியாபாரிகள் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்படவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. நம் முடைய நகரத்திற்கு ஜனத்தொகை ஈவுபடி இப்பொழுது ஆறு பேர்களைத் தான் தேர்ந்தெடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதைத்தவிர இன்னும் எவ்வளவோ யோக்கியதயுள்ளவர்களும், கண்யமுள்ளவர்களும் இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த தன்மையுடைய வியாபாரிகள் இன்னும் பலர் நம் நகரத்திலும் சரி பக்க கிராமங்களிலும் சரி இருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி இருக்கும்போது அவுனில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டவர்கள் ஆறுபேர்கள்தான். மீத முள்ளவர்களுக்கு கிடையாது. நல்ல யோக்கியமுள்ளவர்களுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கிடைக்கவே இல்லை. ஆனால் மதுரை ஜில்லாவிலும் எல்லா தாலுகாக்களிலும் புதுவியாபாரிகளைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்து அவர்களுக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கப்படும். இதனால் பழய வியாபாரிகளுக்கு எவ்வளவு கஷ்டம் ஏற்படும் என்று சர்க்கார் அறியவேண்டும். பழய வியாபாரிகள் என்ன

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செய்வார்கள்? அவர்கள் ரொம்பவும் ஷூட்டப்படுகிறார்கள். நகரங்களிலும் கிராமங்களிலும் துண்டு துண்டாக வியாபாரிகளை நியமித்தார்கள். இப்பொழுது தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் முறை பார்த்தால் அங்கே வியாபாரம் ரொம்பவும் பாதித்துவிட்டிருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது நகரத்தில் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட மொத்த வியாபாரிகள்தான் அங்கேபோய் வியாபாரம் செய்ய வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. இதனால் அவர்கள் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டு கஷ்டப்படுவார்கள். இதைப்போலவே சில்லரை வியாபாரிகளும் பர்திக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.

“இன்னும் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் ஜவுளி கட்டுப்பாட்டினால் ஜவுளி விலை நாளுக்குநாள் இறங்கிக்கொண்டே வருகிறது. இதனால் கைநெசவு ஜவுளி ரொம்பவும் பாதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கைநெசவு ஜவுளி ஏற்றுமதியாவதே இல்லை. அதற்குக் காரணம் நம்தேசம் பூராவும் மஞ்ஜுனி விலை குறைந்து விட்டதால் கைநெசவு ஜவுளிகளுக்கு கிராக்கி இல்லை. இன்னும் இப்பொழுது நூல்களுக்கு மந்தம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. முக்காரணம் நம்மாகாணத்திலிருந்து கைநெசவு ஜவுளிகளை ஏற்றுமதிசெய்ய வசதி இருக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால் அதற்கு இப்பொழுது பர்மிட் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த பர்மிட் வாங்குவதற்கு இப்பொழுது ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. அதற்காக ரூபாய் ஒன்று ஆயிரம் கஜத்திற்கு டிராபிங் கட்டவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஒவ்வொரு வியாபாரியும் வேண்டிய அளவு போட்டு பாரத்தில் எழுதி பூர்த்தி செய்து பர்மிட் பெறுவதற்கு இன்னும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. இம்மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் சில்லரை வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் இருக்கிறது, மொத்த வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் இருக்கிறது. பர்மிட் என்பது இல்லாமல் வைத்திருந்தால் அவர்கள் சௌகர்யமாக வெளியே ஏற்றுமதி செய்வார்கள். ஆகையால் பர்மிட்முறை என்பது கூடவே கூடாது, இன்னும் சிலர் உபயோகம் செய்யாதவர்கள் அதேகம் பர்மிட்டுகள் வாங்கி வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வாங்கிவைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் பர்மிட்டுகளை இப்பொழுது உபயோகிக்காமல் பின்னாடி அவகாசம் கிடைக்கும்போது அதை லாபத்திற்கு உபயோகித்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று அப்படியே வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் ஏற்றுமதி கணக்கு கண்டுபிடிக்க சர்க்காரிடம் சரியான கணக்குக்கிடையாகாது. ஆகையால் ஜவுளி ஏற்றுமதி விஷயத்தில் பர்மிட் முறை தேவை இல்லை என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

“இதுபோக கைநெசவு ஜவுளி பெரும்பாலும் நல்ல நூல்களும் பெரிய நகரங்களாகிய மதுரை, கோயமுத்தூர், சேலம், காஞ்சிபுரம் முதலிய இடங்களில் உற்பத்தியாகிறது. இந்த இடங்களில் 60, 80 என்ற ரக நூல்கள் தயார் செய்யப்படுகிறது. நம் மாகாணத்தின் கோட்டாவைப் பார்த்தால் 1,220 பேல்கள்தான். இன்னும் அதிகமான பேல்கள் நம் மாகாணத்திற்கு தேவையாகியிருக்கிறது. நமது மாகாணத்திற்கு சன்ன நூல்கள் அதிகம் தேவையாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் மத்திய சர்க்காருக்கு தெரிவித்து, எழுத்துமூலமாக எழுதியோ அல்லது நேராகப்போகும்போதோ சொல்லி இன்னும் அதிகமான சன்ன நூல்கள் நம் மாகாணத்திற்குக் கொடுக்கும்படி கேட்டு கைநெசவு தொழிலை ஆதரிக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இன்னொரு விஷயம் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. மில்லில் உற்பத்தியாகும் சன்ன நூலை அதிகமாக கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று. அதற்கு ‘no one can help in this matter’ என்று (யாரும் உதவி செய்வதற்கு இல்லை என்று) சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆகையால் இது விஷயமாக சர்க்காரே சிரத்தை ஏடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். சர்க்காரே கவனிக்க வேண்டும். சர்க்காரே இதற்குக் கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். தறிகாரர்களுடைய நிலைமை ரொம்பவும் பள்ளத்திலிருக்கிறது. ஏற்கனவே மில்ஜவுளிகளின் விலை குறைவால் அவர்களுடைய கைநெசவு ஜவுளி சரியானபடி விற்கப்படாமல் உற்பத்தியான சரக்குகள் அப்படியே கையில் இருக்கின்றன. இப்பொழுது பணக் கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டிருப்பதால் மில் நூல் வாங்க முடியவில்லை. அவர்கள் வசிக்கும் இடங்களுக்கு வாடகை ஜாஸ்தியாக இருக்கிறது. இப்பொழுது நடைமுறையில் இருக்கும் control-லினால் ஒரு தறிகாரருக்கு 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல் 5 பவுண்டுதான் கிடைக்கிறது. மாதா

[Sri M. K. Sundarama Ayyar]

[27th November 1948]

மாதம் அவர்களுக்கு 5 பவுண்டு கிடைத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு பத்து நாட்களுக்குதான் வேலை கிடைக்கும். ஆகையால் அவர்கள் 5 பவுண்டு வைத்துக் கொண்டு எப்படி காலம் கழிப்பார்கள் ?

“இன்னும் இந்தக் கூட்டுப்பாட்டில் நூல் விநியோகிக்கும் முறையில் அநேகம் கஷ்டங்கள் இருக்கிறது. 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல் கேட்டால் 30, 40 தான் இருக்கிறது என்று அதிகாரிகள் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். என்னென்றால் அதிகாரிகள் இந்த நூல்களிலுள்ள நம்பர் மத்தியாசங்களை அறிந்துகொள்ள வில்லை. அவர்கள் அறிந்துகொள்வதற்கு ஆறுமாத காலமாகிறது. அதற்குள் கூட்டுப்பாடுபோய் விடுகிறது. அதிகாரிகள் தெரிந்து கொள்வதற்குள் அவர்களை மாற்றிவிடுகிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் எவ்வளவோ ஏற்படுகிறது. ஆனால் அதிகாரிகள் சுலபமாக டீசைத்து விடுகிறார்கள். நூல்களில் தரம், நம்பர் முதலியவைகளை கவனித்துக்கொடுத்தால் இந்த மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படாது. தறிகாரர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நூல் கொடுத்தால்தான் அவர்கள் சப்ளை செய்வார்கள். ஆகையால் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நூல்கள் கொடுப்பதற்கு கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் கேட்டு இன்னும் அதிகமாக தறிகாரர்களுக்கு சன்ன நூல்களை சப்ளை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சன்ன நூல் தேவையுள்ளவர்களுக்கு மோட்டா நூலும், மோட்டா நூல் தேவையுள்ளவர்களுக்கு சன்ன நூலும் இப்பொழுது கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறதாகவும் புகார். அதை உடனே நிவர்த்தி செய்யவேண்டும்.

“இனியும் கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்கள் மூலமாக விநியோகம் செய்யப்போவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களில் அனுபவமுள்ளவர்கள் இருக்க மாட்டார்கள். அவர்களிடம் பணம் கிடைப்பது. ஆகையால் அவர்கள் சப்ளைக்கு வேண்டிய நூல்களை வாங்குவது கிடையாது. அதனால் இன்னும் கஷ்டம் அதிகமாக ஏற்படும். இப்பொழுது நூலுக்கு கிராக்கி வரவர குறைந்து வருகிறது. சன்ன நூலுக்கு கொஞ்சம் கிராக்கி இருக்கிறது. மோட்டா நூலுக்கு இப்பொழுது கிராக்கி மையாது. ஆகையால் கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களில் சரியானபடி விநியோகம் செய்யமாட்டார்கள். விநியோகத்தை சர்க்கார் ஏன் செய்யவேண்டும்? மில்காரர்களிடம் விநியோகத்தை விட்டுவிட்டால் நல்லதாக இருக்கும் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஆனால், ஒரு பயம் ஏற்படலாம். விலை ஜாஸ்தியாக அவர்கள் சொல்லிவிடுவார்களோ என்று. அதற்குப் பதிலாக சர்க்கார் விலையை control செய்து விடலாம். பதுக்குகிறவர்களை கொள்ளை லாபம் நிவர்த்தி செய்தால் Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Act-ன் கீழ் நடவடிக்கைக்குக் கொண்டு வந்து விடலாம். அப்பொழுது சுலபமாக இருக்கும். அப்பொழுது பலபேர்கள் வந்து விடுவதால் லைசென்ஸ் முறை இருக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால், விநியோகம் செய்வதை சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பகிர்ந்து கொடுப்பது மிகவும் சிரமமாக இருக்கும். அது தேவையே இல்லை. இதை யோசனை செய்து கூடிய சீக்கிரம் இந்த விநியோகம் செய்யும் திட்டத்தை எடுத்து விரும்படி யோசனை கூறுகிறேன். இந்த விநியோகம் செய்யும் திட்டம் போய்விடும் என்று கனம் மந்திரியவர்களே தெரிந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். கூடிய சீக்கிரத்தில் இதை நிவர்த்தி செய்யவேண்டும். மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் இன்னும் அதிகமான சன்ன நூல் கொடுக்கும்படி கேட்கவேண்டும். மில்கவுளி லைசென்ஸ் கொடுப்பதை இன்னும் பழைய வியாபாரிகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். யோக்யமுள்ளவர்களுக்கும், நல்லவர்களுக்கும் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இந்த முறைகளைக் கையாளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

4 p.m.

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—“అధ్యక్షా, సాంఘిక ఉత్పాదక కార్యక్రమము కొలెక్టివ్లను గల సంస్కరణ కొరకు ఈ సంవత్సరం మొదల కొలెక్టివ్లను ప్రకటించి జరిపించ వలెను” అని చాలా ఆశ్చర్యంగా చెప్పింది. విశుద్ధి పథకం గురించి ఆక్షేపణ లాభంలేదు.

ఇదివరలో 2,094 మంది wholesale బట్టల వర్కరులు ఉండేవారు. కాని ఇప్పుడు ప్రభుత్వమువారు 601 మంది పాతవారిని, 146 మంది క్రొత్తవారిని ఏర్పాటు

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చేసినారు. ఈ విధంగా ఏర్పాటు చేయబడినవారు చాలా కాలంనుంచి బట్టల వర్తకం సాగిస్తూ, ఏ విధమైన రిమార్కులు లేకుండా ఉన్నటువంటివారు. వీరు క్రభత్వం వారిచేత వాడివడగోయబడినటువంటివారు. అటువంటివారి దగ్గరనుంచుకూడా 5 వేల రూపాయల deposit ను కోరడంలాగే న్యాయమేమీ నాకు బోధపడుటలేదు.

“మరొక విషయాన్ని గురించి మనవి చేస్తాను. ఈ వర్తకులకు నూటికి రూ 2-0 ల లాభము మాత్రమే ఇస్తారు. కాని co-operative societies కు మాత్రము నూటికి రూ 10 ల లాభాలు తీసుకోడానికి అవకాశమిస్తున్నారు. ఇది చాలా అన్యాయంగా ఉన్నది.

“మరొక ఒక లక్ష జనానికి ఒక whole saler చొప్పున ఏర్పాటుచేశారు. అనగా ఈ wholesale వర్తకుడు తన గ్రామాన్ని విడిచి అందరు జనానికి అందుబాటులో ఉండేందుకు ఒకచోట కొట్టు పెట్టకోవాలి. ఈ విధంగా వేరు గ్రామానికి వెళ్లవలసి రావడంచేత establishment ఖర్చులు చాలా పెద్దగా అవుతాయి. నెలకు 15 వేల రూపాయల అమ్మకము ఇస్తున్నామనగా, రూ 450 ల వస్తాయికదా, అది అంటూన్నాడు కాని గుమాస్తాల జీతాలకి, ఇతర establishment ఖర్చులకు ఇది సరి పోదు. ఈ విషయాలను క్రభత్వంవారు తిరిగి ఆలోచించి ఈ వర్తకులకు గట్టుబాటు ఆద్యుటట్టుగా చూడగోరెను.

“మరొక విషయమేమంటే గుడ్డలో co-operative societies కు 33½% ఇచ్చి, నూలులో 50% ఇవ్వడం చాలా అన్యాయంగా ఉన్నది. ఇవివరల్లా co-operative societies కు కొంత నూలు కోటా ఇవ్వడంవల్ల గ్రామాలలో ఉన్నటువంటి సేతగాళ్లకు చాలినంత నూలు దొరకక పాధపడుతున్నారు. ఇటువంటి పరిస్థితుల్లో ఇప్పుడు co-operative Stores కు 50% నూలు కోటా ఇస్తున్నారు. ఈ stores వారు ఇవివరల్లా వారి societies లో మెంబర్లుగా ఉన్నవారికే నూలు ఇస్తున్నారు కాని ఇతరులకు ఇవ్వటంలేదు. దీనివలన అనేకమంది సేతగాళ్లు నూలు దొరకక జీవనోపాయము కనుపించక చాలా పాధపడుతున్నారు.

“Co-operative societies కు నూటికి 50% ఎందుకు ఇచ్చారంటే, వర్తకులు blackmarket చెయ్యడంవల్ల ఇచ్చినామని క్రభత్వంవారు అంటున్నారు ఇది చాలా అన్యాయంగా ఉన్నది. co-operative societies వారు blackmarket చెయ్యటం లేదని ఎవ్వరూ వెళ్లలేదు. మా విశేషపుట్టణం జిల్లాలో, విజయనగరం తాలూకా, గజపతి నగరం co-operative Stores వారు రూపాయకి రూ 11-11-6 లు చొప్పున ఎక్కువగా అమ్మినారు. వారు ఆ విధంగా చేస్తున్నట్లు నేను కలెక్టరుగారికి వ్రాసినాను. ఈ విషయంలో కలెక్టరుగారు దరియాప్తుచేయించి వానికి ఆ విధంగా చేయవద్దని warning ఇచ్చినట్లుగా నాకు వ్రాసినారు. ఇదే ఎవరైనా వర్తకుడైనట్లయితే చాలా ఎక్కువ శిక్ష విధించి ఉండేవారే. ఈ విధంగా co-operative societies వారుకూడా blackmarket చేస్తుండేవారికే తిరిగి నగము నూలు ఇవ్వడం చాలా అశుభర్యంగా ఉన్నది కాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఈ విషయముల నన్నింటిని తిరిగి ఆలోచించి అనేక సంవత్సరములనుంచి బట్టల వ్యాపారము చేస్తున్నటువంటి వర్తకులకు న్యాయము కలుగజేస్తారని ఆశిస్తున్నాను.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Mr. President, I just want to ask two questions of the Hon. Minister for Textiles. The first is this. In this note on the textile control policy of the Government, it is stated that 'after taking delivery of cloth and yarn at the mill premises, the representative buyers

[Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur] [27th November 1948]

will book the goods to the wholesale consignees in each district, who will take delivery and arrange to distribute to the wholesalers in the districts in this Province'. But, Sir, in the announcement that was made in the Press about this arrangement, there were only the wholesale consignees, but the representative buyers were not there, and people deposited money and made selections. Subsequent to that, I find a notification issued by the Government in the Development Department, dated 10th November 1948. In that there was an amendment to this effect namely, that the 'wholesale consignee' means the person who receives a specified number of bales, etc. Therefore, Sir, in this note, we have got what is known as the representative buyers, being introduced. May I know from the Hon. Minister for Textiles how these people came in subsequently, who are going to appoint them and what are their functions?

"Then the other question is this. It is further stated in this note that the 'Government have addressed the Central Government for the increase of quota for this Province from 21,000 bales to 30,000 bales per month and as soon as the increased quantity is sanctioned, the number of wholesale and retail dealers will be increased correspondingly'. Are the additional people going to be appointed by inviting applications? These are the two questions I want to ask. Are the Government going to appoint these additional wholesale and retail dealers after announcement and after people have made money? Will not the ordinary people in the country naturally think that patronage is being distributed by the Government in this matter? I should like the Hon. Minister to throw some light on these two points, Sir."

SRI S. A. S. R. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, நூல் ஜவுளி விஷயமாக முதலில் கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் சொல்லியதையும் மற்றும் எல்லோரும் பேசியதையும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். நமது கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுக்கு நல்ல முறையில் ஜனங்களுக்கு சௌகரியம் செய்யவேண்டும் என்றும் **black market** இல்லாமலும் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று மனப்பூர்வமாக எண்ணம் இருக்கிறது. அது அப்படி இருக்கிறது என்பது எனக்கு நிச்சயமாகத் தெரியும். அதற்கு வேண்டி சர்க்கார் ஒரு விதமாக உத்திரவு போட்டாலும் பக்கத்திலுள்ளவர்கள் அதற்கு வேறு விதமாக அபிப்பிராயம் கொடுத்து அதன்படி அமல் நடத்துகிறார்கள். சிப்பந்திகள் இவ்விதம் வேறுவிதமாக அர்த்தம் கொள்வதால் ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. இதை சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டியது கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுடைய பொறுப்பு.

"இரண்டாவதாக **blackmarket** கூடவே கூடாது. ஏற்கனவே கைநெசவுக் காரர்கள் கஷ்டமடைந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது 40, 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல்களை ரூ. 45-க்கு வாங்கி ரூ. 80-க்கு மேல் **blackmarket**-ல் விற்பது வருகிறார்கள். இன்னும் சில சமயங்களில் அதிக விலைக்குக் கூட கிடைக்கவில்லை. ஆகையால் முதலில் **blackmarket**-ஐ ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் நூல்களை அனுப்புவதில் கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுகின்றன. காஞ்சிவரத்திற்கு 80, 60 நம்பர் நூல்கள் வேண்டும். அங்கே 40, 30 நம்பர் நூல்களை அனுப்புகிறார்கள். அதேபோல் சீமாளாவிற்கு 40, 30 நம்பர் நூல்கள் தேவையாக இருக்குமேபோது 100, 80-ம் நம்பர் நூல்களை அனுப்புகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் மாற்றியனுப்புவதால் ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டம் ஏற்படுகிறது. இவ்விதமான கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுவது அதிகாரிகளால் தான். உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களை I.C.S. படித்தவர்களாகப் போடுவதால் அவர்களுக்கு வியாபாரத்தின் தோஷனை தெரியாது. அதனால் வியாபாரிகளும் ஜனங்களும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள்.

27th November 1948] [Sri S. A. S. Rm. Ramanatham Chettiyar]

வியாபாரிகளில் நான்கு பேர்கள் கொண்ட கமிட்டியை நியமித்தால் அவர்களுக்கு தொழிலின் அனுபவம் தெரியும். தொழில் அனுபவம் தெரிந்தவர்களை நியமித்தால் ஜனங்களுக்கும், வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் சௌகரியம் ஏற்படும். நமது நண்பர் வாலுஜா ரோடில் அநேகம் பேர்கள் நூல் வரப் போகிறது என்று காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று இப்பொழுதும் சொன்ன மாதிரி கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்படுகிறது. இன்னும் அதிகாரிகளைப் போய் நூல் வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டால் அவர்கள் ஜனங்களை மரியாதையாக நடத்துவது இல்லை. திருப்பி ஏதாவது கேட்டால் 'போ, ஜாய், போ' என்று அதட்டுகிறார்கள். அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களிடத்தில் அன்பாகப் பழகும்படி சொல்ல வேண்டும். அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களுக்கு நூல் கொடுத்தாலும் சரி கொடுக்காவிட்டாலும் சரி இனியமையாகப் பேசி அனுப்பவேண்டும். இன்னும் கூட்டுறவு ஸ்டோர்களுக்குப் போனால் கேட்கவே வேண்டாம். அவர்களுடைய அதிகாரம் சர்க்கார் அதிகாரங்களைவிட ஜாஸ்தியாக இருக்கிறது. மணி 8-5-க்குப் போனால் கிடையாது, வெளியே போ என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். முன்னால் போனால் மணி 4 ஆகவில்லை என்று அதிகாரம் செய்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் நிலைமையில் நூல் வாங்குவது என்பது ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களால் ஜனங்களுக்கு சௌகரியம் கிடையாது. ஏனென்றால் அவர்களுக்குத்தான் பணம் கிடையாதே. சர்க்காரிடம் கடன் வாங்கிதானே நடக்கிறது? ஆகையால், அவர்கள் சரிவர நடக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். ஒரு விஷயம் சொல்லுகிறேன், Mr. Farookhi Sahib கவனிக்கவேண்டும். மவுண்ட் ரோடில் ஒரு கூட்டுறவு ஸ்டோர் இருக்கிறது. அங்கே போய் பார்த்தால் ஜவனிகள் சாக்கு மூட்டைகள் மாதிரி கிடக்கிறது. குப்பை கூளமாகப் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை யெல்லாம் எலிகள் கடித்து மோசமாகக் கிடக்கிறது. அவைகள் ஏன் அப்படி இருக்கிறது என்று கேட்டால் அவைகளையெல்லாம் கப்பலில் அனுப்பபோகிறோம் என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களுக்கு வியாபார அனுபவம் இல்லை. ஆனால் வியாபாரிகள் சரக்குகளை நன்றாக காப்பாற்றி வைப்பார்கள். கூட்டுறவுக்கும் வியாபாரத்திற்கும் ரொம்ப தூரம். பெரிய பெரிய வியாபாரிகளால் நடத்த முடியாதபோது இந்த கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்கள் எப்படி நடத்த முடியும்? இன்னும் இவர்கள் டிபாசிட்டு ரூ. 2,000 கட்ட வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஒரு wholesaler விற்குமல் அவனுக்கு ரூ. 3,000-க்கு 90 லாபம் கிடைக்கிறது. ஒரு retailer விற்குமல் நூற்றுக்கு ரூ. 6 வீதம் ரூ. 180 லாபம் கிடைக்கும். இன்னும் sales-tax போட்டிருப்பது ஒருவிதமாக இருக்கிறது. ஒட்டக் கூத்தன் பாட்டிற்கு இரட்டைத் தாப்பான் என்பதுபோல் ஒரு wholesaler அவனை retailer ஆக இருந்தால் அவன் இரண்டு வித sales-tax கட்ட வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. Wholesaler-க்கு ஒரு தடவையும் retailer sale-க்கு ஒரு தடவையும் கட்டவேண்டுமா? இரண்டுவித sales-tax எவ்விதம் வருகிறது என்பது தெரியவில்லை. அது சந்தேகமாக இருக்கிறது. எந்த விதத்திலும் இந்த blackmarket ஒழிய வேண்டும். அதை ஒழிக்க முதலில் வழி தேட வேண்டும். அதை ஆதரிக்கவே கூடாது. இப்பொழுது ரூ. 45-க்கு வாங்கும் நூல்களை ரூ. 80, 85 என்று வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள். ஆகையால், ஜனங்களுக்கு கஷ்டப்படாமல் சௌகரியமாக நூல் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்ய வேண்டும். ஜவனி லைசென்ஸ் எடுத்துக்கொள்வதாக இருந்தால் ரூ. 5,000 கட்டவேண்டியதில்லை ரூ. 2,000 கட்டினால் போதுமா. அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களை அனுசரிக்காததால் ஜனங்கள் ரொம்பவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். ரொம்பவும் திண்டாடுகிறார்கள். அதிகாரிகள் கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுடைய எண்ணத்தை மனப்பூர்வமாக நிறைவேற்றி ஜனங்களுக்கு எந்த விதத்திலும் சௌகரியமாக சிரமம் இல்லாமல் நூல் ஜவனி எல்லோருக்கும் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to submit that the piecegoods that we get from outside this Presidency are not at all suited to our requirements. All the surplus cloth from other Provinces is dumped in this Province and we are compelled to go in for it on account of the scarcity of cloth in this Province. Ordinarily we, in this Province, require 4½ to 7 cubits length of dhoties, but we get

[Sri M. D. T. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar.] [27th November 1948]

8, 9 and 10 cubits dhoties which are commonly used in the North. Only very few people in the southern districts wear these long dhoties. But the majority of the people in this Province do not wear such cloth, but still we have to purchase it, because there is no other go. I would, therefore, request the Government to consider this aspect of the matter and see that arrangements are made to import only dhoties between $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 cubits in length, so that the public need not unnecessarily purchase these lengthy dhoties and pay more money."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I would not have intervened and taken part in these discussions, but for the charge laid down by certain hon. Members that the previous Congress Ministry by its policy has retarded the progress of production of mill yarn and mill cloth. I have to say that it is not true, Sir. I should like to ask the Government whether those spindles which were expected to arrive were received by the Government, how many mills have been started and how many new companies were floated. What is the position with regard to those spindles now? Are they going to come at all? Where are they going to come from—From America, or England or Japan?"

" Apart from that, Sir, even if some mills were started, should not the quantity of yarn that the Madras Province gets from outside bear some ratio to the spindlage that was proposed to be supplied to this Province?"

" Now, Sir, both food and cloth are the two most important things which our country needs and which are indispensable to every man. The previous Congress Ministry had done its best to tackle these two problems and had laid down schemes and programmes with great ambition and if it had continued in office, it would have done something in that direction. Those schemes were undertaken according to the policy of the Congress and they were intended to give work to the millions of our agricultural labourers and other tillers of the soil in the villages, whose earning capacity is very small and to add something to their income in the lean months of the year. You know, Mr. President, that our country has increased in population, but that increase is mainly confined to big towns and cities. The population has not increased proportionately in the villages. Only in very few villages has the population increased during the last decade, but even if all the ryots and peasants get into the land and try their best to increase agricultural production, they cannot produce enough to feed the population, because labour is not readily available there.

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p.m.

" Sir, our agriculture has become extensive but not intensive. We are trying to produce more but the result is not so. During weeding season for want of labour our agriculture is not properly done. Though the preparations are good, if weeding is not done we will have only grass and not food. That is the result and that is the kind of agriculture that is going on in the villages and in the country. What I appeal to the people is that this clamour

27th November 1948] [Sri N. Sankara Reddi]

for mill cloth must be given up. Already the export to Africa, Burma and Ceylon of our handloom cloth has been reduced or restricted. The weavers are going without work and they are not able to earn anything to make both ends meet. Sir, it is the duty of the Government to feed these weavers and the agricultural labourers. They must revigourate the village and give occupation to the agricultural labourers and the small peasant and fix him on to the land and to the production of cloth. Cloth is the only main industry after agriculture and the production of food must be correlated to the production of cloth. Then only, Sir, we will have peace in the country and the poor agricultural labourer will have the capacity to live in the village. Or else everything will be going wrong and we will be heading towards disaster. Cloth is not the only important thing, Sir. If our food production is not made sufficient, every year we will have to go to the Government of India with our bowl for a million tons of food. Wherefrom can the Government of India get if we are not able to produce the food in our own lands and in our own Province? This kind of agitation for more and more mill cloth and this kind of criticism and allegation that a certain Government retarded the progress of the production of mill cloth and yarn should be given up at least by the intelligent strata of people. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat."

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI:—"Just as in the case of food, Sir, in the case of cloth also this Province is a deficit province and we have to depend upon the Bombay and other Provinces . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister for Industries how much time he would require for his reply?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"Half an hour, Sir."

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI:—"The Hon. Minister has told us just now that calculating at the rate of 10 yards per capita, the 1939 basis, we want as much as 4 lakhs of bales of cloth."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think he said 12 yards."

* SRI D. KRISHNAMURTI:—"But to-day's population must be considerably more and so the quantity required must be much more. We are now depending upon other parts of India for mill cloth. Sir, the controls were abandoned on the recommendation of Mahatma Gandhi and now things were fast improving in the country. When one wanted any cloth he could get it from the market if he paid the price for it. I cannot understand, Sir, why controls are again sought to be introduced by this new control order. One patent fact seems to be that out of 2,900 wholesale dealers about 600 get the patronage of the Government for selling and 2,300 wholesale dealers would be thrown out of employment. Sir, they have been merchants carrying on their

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trade for a number of years and there is no special reason why they should close their shops and why the patronage should be restricted to a considerably small number of people. In the matter of yarn the difficulty is much more.

“Coming to distribution of yarn by the co-operative societies, Sir, I know several handloom weavers who are suffering to-day for want of proper distribution of yarn. As a matter of fact in the East Godavari district in Chirala and Mangalagiri where there are two looms there is only one loom working now for want of supply of yarn. I cannot see, Sir, any advantage by the introduction of the system of control except it be that you keep these people at the mercy of a few merchants who are under the good books of the Government. No useful purpose would be served, Sir, at this stage to blame the previous Government for not producing adequate mill cloth, because these things cannot be done in an hour or two. By introducing this method of textile control we are going from bad to worse. I ask, Sir, do the Government really want this method because it will confer valuable advantages upon the people? Sir, by taking this step, the Government will create a serious situation in the country by swelling the numbers of unemployed, as now there are already people unemployed in the different walks of life, namely, the tappers, the agricultural labourers, etc. And we will add to this number the retail cloth merchants and the wholesale merchants and yarn merchants. So far as benefit to the consumer is concerned, it remains to be seen how far any person would be able to take advantage of it apart from the Government. Therefore, I strongly oppose the policy of control, now to be introduced by the Government as it will produce more harm than good and it is not to the best interests of the general body of public.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“I think the bell may be rung so that the Hon. Minister may have a better audience.”

The bell was rung.

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—“Mr. President, Sir, let me first thank the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the other hon. Members of this House who have taken pains to study at such short notice the notes circulated and the helpful criticism that has been offered to the Government. I am indeed grateful to them for the various suggestions that they have made and for pointing out some of the difficulties that have been experienced in certain places in the Presidency and also generally about some of the alleged defects pointed out. I take this opportunity, Sir, of explaining to the hon. Members of the House the views of the Government in regard to this matter. Let me first take the question of controls about which the hon. Member who spoke last referred. It is not as though this Government or the Central Government are very fond of controls. No Government is fond of controls. They would like to avoid it if they can. But in the interests of society certain things have to be done by the State and this is one of them. I would like to bring to the

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notice of the hon. Members, how the prices of yarn and cloth soared high before these controls were reintroduced by the Government. They went up in some cases to 300 per cent more than the pre-control period in the case of superfine cloth and I believe in some cases it went up to even 400 per cent. Even the coarse and medium counts which are ordinarily required by the common man went up by 40 to 60 per cent. Then, Sir, there was the criticism levelled against the Government, namely, that they did not realise their duty to the common man and people clamoured for controls and then the controls came. To-day there is again a criticism by some section of the people that there should be no control. This is a very difficult question and it is very difficult to please the various sections of the people. But so long as the Government feel that it owes a duty to the common man to see that he gets his cloth at a fair price, certain steps have to be taken and to-day the controls have been introduced to achieve this object.

“Coming to the question of licences, Sir, a certain criticism has been levelled that there were a large number of wholesalers and a large number of retailers and they have all been thrown out of employment. It looks from the remarks of hon. Members as though the Government had a desire to make them suffer. Let me assure hon. Members of the House, Sir, that the Government are as sympathetic as the hon. Members to the plight of the people who are thrown out of employment. It is not the desire of the Government to throw anybody out of employment if they can help it. But let me remind hon. Members, Sir, that 50 per cent of the yarn has been allotted to the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies. Out of this 50 per cent the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society was already handling about 25 per cent and what has been given is an additional allotment. That is, the Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society has been given another 25 per cent of the quota more than what was previously given. Therefore, the number of retailers or wholesalers in yarn who have been affected is comparatively very much less.

“Then I come to the question of cloth. About one-third of the provincial quota has been given to the co-operative societies to enable the Government to see that the sales are effected in various places where the societies are located—in rural areas also—at fair prices, so that they may act as a check upon private trade and also to see that the consumer gets the cloth at a fair and reasonable price. In fact, Sir, there was a criticism levelled against the Government that we did not entrust the entire dealing in cloth and yarn to co-operative societies and that we ought to have tried this as an experiment and given at least yarn fully to the co-operatives. They suggested that at least 50 per cent of the quota should be given to the co-operative societies. Knowing the hardships it would cause to trade and also knowing the difficulties of the co-operative societies in dealing with these large quantities of cloth and yarn, and after due consideration of certain other

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aspects of the matter, the Government decided to entrust one-third of the cloth quota and 50 per cent of the yarn to co-operative societies. Naturally this led to the number of the original wholesalers and retailers coming down and this could not be helped. Sir, I should like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that this large increase in wholesalers and retailers took place during the last control period and I believe before the controls were introduced the number of wholesalers and retailers in the whole Province was very much less. And so the people who have been really in the trade for a long time and who have been affected by this control are not so considerable as it looks from the figures that have been furnished.

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p.m.

"I have not got the exact figures with regard to the number of retailers just before the control. But, the number of retailers was not more than 850 or 900 in the whole Province. Anyhow, their number was not so much as now.

"Then, Sir, I feel that in a few months and indeed in a very short time, we can expect an additional allotment of cloth and yarn for the Madras Province. Representations have been made by this Government to the Government of India for this additional quota of cloth and yarn. When this additional quota is received, Government propose to increase the number of people who are to be licensed, whether it be for wholesale or retail. Therefore, every effort will be made to see that as few a people in the trade as possible are displaced, so long as they had behaved well in the past and are likely to behave well in the future.

"Then, Sir, the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition raised the question of production. He asked, 'Has the Government done anything to increase production?' For the information of this House, I may say that in this Province, most of the mills producing yarn have gone on to the third shift. There has been some trouble in the production of yarn in the Madras Presidency during the last few months. But, hon. Members will realise that adequate steps have been taken by this Government to relieve the handloom weavers. It will certainly be appreciated by hon. Members when I say that we are able to claim more yarn quota for this Province and that we have taken efforts to increase the production of cloth. We have been pressing on the Government of India that we should be allotted 30,000 bales, while allotment for this Province has been only 21,000 bales. We have made out a case for the increase in the quota of yarn based on the large number of looms that are working in this Province. I hope, Sir, that this increased quota of 30,000 bales will be received and that we will be able to increase the production of cloth in this Province.

"Then, Sir, some hon. Members mentioned that there was scarcity of certain finer counts. But, Sir, in the matter of yarn, I must point out that certain difficulties are found about the supply of finer counts of yarn. There is bound to be difficulty so long as the allocation of the finer counts of yarn to this Province is less than what we need. I should like at this stage to inform

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this House that the Government of India propose to restrict the production of finer counts. That is one question that is being examined. In fact, there may be a decision by the Government of India to reduce the production of counts of 80s and above. As I have already said in my statement, counts of 100s are not at all coming in now. If we got a few bales, it was during the last control. That is a fact which the handloom industry should take note of and perhaps adjust itself to the new setup. It is natural that Government should be reducing the finer counts to help greater production of yarn. The production of finer counts depends always on foreign cotton. The prices of foreign cotton were so high that some mills had to give up production of finer varieties of yarn. There has been a strong feeling that in the production of finer varieties of cloth, there has been some laxity. But, Sir, if we are able to get adequate supplies of finer counts of yarn, we can produce such varieties. But, there is some difficulty in producing the finer counts of yarn. I should like those people who clamour for these finer counts that it is not as if the Government are unaware of their difficulties and that they do not want to help them. We have got our limitations in that we have to get our allocations made from the All-India Pool and the limited quantity that is made available to us is being distributed equitably to the various areas. We are trying to get more of these finer counts of yarn and to satisfy those people who clamour for those particular types as far as possible. But, I should state that in view of the possibility of the Government of India restricting the production of finer counts, it is better for the industry to adjust itself even from now and to weave the coarser counts, say, the 40s, 36s or the 19s, and so on, because adequate supplies of these types of yarn will be available. I was really surprised to hear the hon. Member from Tirunelveli when he said that they felt great difficulty in getting yarn to the mills in that area. In fact, I received a report from one district recently that in one or two taluks of that district, the movement of yarn has been rather slow but, that is because the weavers found that they are not able to sell the cloth that they had already produced out of the rougher counts of yarn supplied to them. Perhaps, the other reason why there has been some difficulty felt in certain areas is the smuggling that was taking place for some time into the Hyderabad area. That is one of the reasons that was responsible for the non-availability of cloth. But, with the introduction of controls and with stricter supervision over distribution, I am sure, the difficulty will disappear day by day. We are taking all steps to see that smuggling which is likely to take place is prevented as far as possible.

“Then, Sir, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition spoke about khaddar. Yes, Sir, we have been pushing through the Firka Development Scheme in order to help production of khaddar as much as possible. I do not know the amount of yardage that is there but I know that there is a good quantity of yarn which has not yet been converted into cloth. Sir, we have been finding some difficulty in some places to get the weavers to

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weave hand-spun yarn because the weaver is rather reluctant to weave hand-spun yarn into cloth and we are persuading the weavers to weave cloth out of hand-spun yarn. During the last control period, there were certain areas wherein the handloom weavers were not given any supply of mill-yarn but they were made compulsorily to weave cloth from hand-spun yarn. I do not know whether such a need is felt at the present moment but if any such need arises, I am sure, we will be able to get a few weavers exclusively to weave this hand-spun yarn, perhaps compensating them properly for the trouble that they have to undergo, because, these weavers may not be able to earn as much as they earn by weaving mill yarn."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Compensate from public revenues?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—"It will be shifted on to the consumer."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"That is a question that will have to be tackled."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"May I know why they find it difficult to utilize the hand-spun yarn?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"It is not quite so uniform."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Sir, difficulty has been felt in persuading some of those people to weave hand-spun yarn because it is much easier for them to weave cloth out of mill-yarn and also for weaving mill-yarn, the payment is made on the yardage."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I wish all hon. Members will wait till the Hon. Minister finishes his reply."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend asked that when machines are available, why should we encourage hand-made cloth. For the information of the hon. Member, I may say that even in England—perhaps he knows about England and Scotland much more than I do—there is the production of a particular type of hand-spun and hand-woven cloth that is very much fancied. It is not as if there is no scope for hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. There is always scope for particular types of hand-woven clothes in every country and in every part of the world. In spite of the machines that we may get, there will be scope for hand-spun and hand-woven, fine varieties of cloth. I wish my hon. Friend sees some fine varieties of khadi that is available in Chicacole and in certain special areas of the Vizagapatnam district where beautiful varieties of khadi are produced; which are much more durable than the ordinary khaddar. Therefore, this cloth woven by the hand has always got a pride of place in spite of the fact that machines may come in large numbers. So, Sir, there is no need to discourage or eliminate production of khaddar as was suggested by the hon. Member."

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“ Then, Sir, another question was raised as to why we should not make an attempt to make this Province self-sufficient in the production of mill cloth. Sir, we have specialized in this Province the production of handloom cloth. As I have already said, our production of handloom cloth is very considerable. It comes to 288,000 bales per year. If each Province goes on thinking in terms of self-sufficiency then, who is to buy our handloom cloth? It is a question that has to be borne in mind. Therefore, there cannot be the question of self-sufficiency for a particular Province. Now, we must think in terms of national and international interests and in terms of the Indian Union as a whole. I am sure my hon. Friend will appreciate this. We have got also to exchange our handloom goods with those of other Provinces. If we work out this policy of self-sufficiency as my hon. Friend suggested, then it is likely that other Provinces may start their own production of handloom cloth with the result that a large number of handloom weavers who produce specialized varieties of cloth in this Province will be thrown out of employment. That is one fact which I would like the hon. Member to bear in mind. The principle of self-sufficiency cannot be applied to small areas, say for each district or for each Province, because this principle of self-sufficiency will be very difficult to work out in practice. I therefore feel that there must be a sense of ‘ Give and Take ’.

“ Another criticism that was levelled was, why should this Province be saddled with this large amount of handloom cloth while cheaper mill cloth is made available in other Provinces. It is true that during the last controls, our quota of mill cloth was about four yards per individual and the rest of the requirements had to be made up by handloom cloth. This question we have now taken up with the Government of India and have suggested to them that the handloom cloth produced in this Province must be allowed to be exported to other Provinces in certain proportions that quantity should be replaced by mill cloth from other Provinces. I hope the Government of India will agree to our proposal that at least fifty per cent of the handloom cloth produced in this Province should be allowed to be exported to other Provinces and it should be replaced by mill cloth so that the ordinary man here may be enabled to get cheaper cloth. That is one of the things which the Madras Government have taken up with the Government of India and they are trying to persuade the Government of India to agree to this proposal. These are questions which we have still to consider. No permanent allocation of cloth and yarn have been made to this Province as yet and when permanent allocations are made, I am sure, all these aspects will be taken into consideration.

“ One hon. Member put a question as regards the basis on which this quota of 12 yards was arrived at. The answer is this. This quota was arrived at by the Government of India, on the basis of the pre-war consumption of the various Provinces. As I have already stated, the present proposal has not yet been finalized, and allocations have not yet been finally decided. But it has been proposed by the Government to allocate cloth on a uniform basis

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of 18 yards for each person in urban areas, and 12 yards in rural areas. I believe this allocation will give us a few more bales than what we have been receiving hitherto. It has been accepted by the Government of India that there should not be any difference between one Province and another, but there should be a difference between the urban and the rural areas, because it is said that the urban people are likely to use more cloth than the rural population. It is on the basis of this calculation that the Government of India have fixed the future mill cloth allocations for our Province. It will also depend on the percentage of the handloom cloth that the Government of India would agree, to be sent to other Provinces from ours.

“ My hon. Friend Mr. Farookhi Sahib raised two other points. Where did these representative buyers and wholesale consignees come into the picture? He felt as though some great wrong had been done, and somebody has been taken by surprise. But let me draw his attention to the statement that I made in the Legislative Assembly, where I said that the question relating to the number of dealers, and the agencies for the procurement of cloth was still under consideration. But the fact that a representative buyer and a wholesale consignee have come into the picture, does not in any way alter the structure that we have had so far. These representative buyers were in existence during the previous controls, and they were doing the functions of a procurement agency for selling cloth and yarn from the various mills, such as in Ahmedabad or Bombay. I think there were about 47 persons during the last control. Now there are about 36 persons who go about and buy from the mills, the allotted quota, keep them in the godowns, and then move them on to the various districts, in railway wagons. If these people are not there, it is not possible for the wholesalers to procure their quotas. They could not go to the various places, and in fact it was their desire that there should be this system of representative buyers going to the various mills, to secure their quotas. So, Sir, these representative buyers were necessary for the smooth and swift working of the system, and for facilitating easy movement for equitable distribution. They were already there in existence during the previous controls, and what we have done now is to simply continue that precedent.

“ As for these wholesale consignees, it was felt that if we had one such person in each district, who could receive the entire quota for the district in wagon loads, it would facilitate the quick movement of cloth. Otherwise there would be a lot of delay in that the representative buyer would have to consign to the various wholesalers in small lots, and there would be the difficulty of providing adequate wagon facilities. It was felt that if there was at least one man who could receive the quota on behalf of each district, the entire quota of the allotted number of bales, and consigned to him by the representative buyers, he could easily take these bales, and without breaking them, on the basis of the number of bales allotted to each wholesaler, distribute them to these wholesalers.

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Of course, he is allowed a small margin of about 0.75 per cent. There have been complaints that this is a very small margin of profit, and therefore it is very difficult to secure people to do this job. It is true that these wholesale consignees were appointed by the Provincial Textile Commissioner in consultation with the Collectors, and neither the legislators nor the people were consulted in this. But let me assure this House, that the consumer is not going to be affected by this in any way. It was the interests of the consumers that this system had to be introduced, so that the distribution of cloth may be quickened. I am saying once again that there is no question of patronage at all, since the Provincial Textile Commissioner has felt some difficulty in securing persons for this job. I do not know; whether even those that have been secured now, will, after some experience, stick on the job. At present, a few people have agreed to do this; and I hope they will help to quicken the process of cloth distribution, both in the stages of receipt and dispersal."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are these people to be appointed in all the districts? "

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir. Then, Sir, a question was raised by another hon. Member that there has been some communal representation in this matter. I may assure this House, that there is no communal representation in trade. I think this is one of the points which have to clear up. I may tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition that so far I have not received any complaints that any discrimination has been made. If any case of discrimination is brought to my notice, I shall see that justice is done. I hope no injustice has been done to any person on the ground that he belongs to a particular community. Government do not look at this problem from the communal point of view, and I therefore appeal to hon. Members not to think in terms of communalism in trade.

The whole question was left to the Collectors of the various districts, and may that be in some cases they have made some mistakes without perhaps knowing all the facts. I have been receiving a few complaints here and there, that some injustice has been done. And these, I am forwarding to the respective Collectors, asking them for the grounds or the reasons why a particular person has not been chosen. We shall try to inquire into these matters, and do our best to see that no injustice is done."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I said, Sir, that many Muslims that approached me assured that there was no discrimination on account of community. I only wanted that to be brought to the notice of Government."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have any concessions been given to the Harijan people? "

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I thought that this question also will be raised by some hon. Member. Now that

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it has been raised, it is my duty to answer it. During the previous controls there was some complaint that Harijans did not get any opportunities of coming into the trade. So, certain orders were passed by the Government enabling some of them to come into the trade. Now, the various Collectors have seen to it that such of those as were there during the previous controls, have been given an opportunity to come into the trade. We have been trying to secure as many of those as were in the textile trade during the previous controls, in as large a number as possible, since a greater number of bales of cloth are likely to move in. We shall also see to it that there is as much absorption of these people as possible, leaving no room for complaint that some of them have been thrown out of their own trade.

My hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao raised a question as to the slow movement of cloth in these few months. He pointed out certain figures from the statement that has been circulated. But I may recall that as soon as this new set-up of things was brought into existence, we had the Hyderabad troubles, which resulted in the movement of cloth from Ahmedabad and Bombay being slowed down. Attempts were made, however, to move these cloth bales by steamer, but there was some difficulty felt in the matter. Naturally therefore, the movement was not very satisfactory in these few months. But now the position has changed very much, and I expect, that with our representative buyers and wholesale consignees, the allotments that are made to this Province will be made available to the dealers as quickly as possible. I may once again assure hon. Members that all this will not certainly affect the price to be paid by the consumer.

Mr. Suryanarayana Rao raised some points as regards the working of these co-operative societies in these few months, and the manner in which they have discharged the responsibility that has been thrust upon them, in the matter of the distribution of cloth and yarn. Originally we thought that with the first allotment of cloth and yarn, the new people that have been selected will come into the trade, but there has been some delay due to the extension of time by the Government for the unstamped cloth to be sold. But yet, on the whole, I should say these co-operative societies have done well, and have dispersed the cloth to the various districts satisfactorily; they have also taken care to see that people visit these societies frequently. All this has had a very good effect on the price structure, so that even people who were selling unstamped cloth at high prices have reduced these prices very much. On the whole I should say they have done well. They have dispersed the cloth to the various districts. I have been getting reports that people have taken kindly to the sales societies. It has had very good effect on the price structure. The price of cloth has gone down due to the movement of cloth by co-operative societies. Recently the Registrar of Co-operative Societies held a conference of the co-operative wholesale stores and certain suggestions have been made to modify the quota of cloth to be moved from outside the Province. They have also suggested, in view of

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the fact that they have been receiving more cloth than was originally contemplated, that they would like to give up the quotas for November and December. From January onwards the percentage of cloth to be taken by the societies from outside the Province will vary. On the whole the societies will continue to distribute the cloth to the same extent as before. I hope, Sir, I have been able to cover most of the points raised by hon. Members.

"Sir, the question of the export of handloom cloth is a matter for the Government of India. The Government of Madras have been taking an active interest in the welfare of the handloom weavers. We have been able to persuade the Government of India a few months ago and get a special allotment for export of handloom cloth. The quota was the largest that was ever given to the co-operative societies. The Government of Madras have always been trying to help the handloom weavers in exporting their cloth outside. Recently certain representations were made by the Handloom Weavers' Organizations and the handloom weavers themselves that they must be given special facilities for export of cloth in view of the accumulation of certain types of cloth. We have taken up the matter with the Government of India. This Government is fully aware of all the difficulties of the handloom weavers and the needs of the handloom weavers. We are constantly watching the interests of these people. Every effect will be made by this Government so far as it lies with them, to take care of the interests of these people."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"As there is no definite motion before the House, I declare that this motion is talked out."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, I should like that we have a discussion on the educational policy of the Government at the earliest time possible, if possible after question time on the first day of the next session. We are adjourning to-day and the matter is an important one."

* MR. PRESIDENT :—"I hope the Government will consider the request of the Leader of the Opposition and allot a day for the subject as early as they possibly can."

"Before I adjourn the House, I should like to say a few words to the House. In my opinion the session which has just now concluded or is about to conclude is one of the very important ones we have so far had, because the House has now helped to put on the statute book some very important measures which, I am sure, will be very much appreciated by the whole country."

"Of all the measures which we have just now passed, three are very important, namely, the Zamindari Abolition Bill, the Public Libraries Bill and perhaps also the Aliyasantana Bill. Of these three, undoubtedly the most outstanding is the Zamindari Abolition Bill. Myself coming from a zamindari area and as a lawyer having had very much to do with the litigation under the Estates Land Act, I should like to mention my reactions to the Bill and I think it would not be misunderstood as entrenching upon

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things which are not the special duty of the President to do. I heartily congratulate the Government and especially the Hon. the Revenue Minister on this achievement. This is an epoch-making measure which is almost revolutionary in its nature and intended to benefit a large mass of people and I am sure will rank as the most outstanding achievement of the Ministry. In fact, I do not think I will be wrong if I say, taking the history of not only this Legislature but also of all the legislatures that went before, there have never been any measure passed by them which could rank with this either in its importance or in its effect on the country. I therefore think that the Government deserve all praise for having pushed it through with single-minded devotion and without avoidable delay.

“The main purpose of the Bill is to bring the land tenure in zamindari areas on a line with that in ryotwari areas and thus help in improving the economic condition of the zamin peasantry. It cannot, of course, be said, that the Bill is perfect in every way and I do not think even the Government make that claim. There are no doubt important defects but in a measure of this kind, it is not possible to expect perfection straightaway especially when time is an important factor to be considered. The Province, as it is constituted to-day, consists of two well-defined portions, namely, the ryotwari area and the zamin area. Ryotwari area must also at one time have formed part of the dominions of Indian Rulers, but on political grounds they were liquidated and Government took over direct control and the administration of such areas. The rest of the area was allowed to continue as zamin area also on political grounds. If you look at them from the point of view of the ryot, the difference is striking and very disadvantageous to the zamin ryot. The land revenue is a tax whether it is paid by the ryotwari ryot or a zamin ryot. Whereas, in one case, it becomes public property and is intended to go back to the public by way of expenditure on various public services; in the other cases, it was converted into the private property of a private individual subject only to a demand from the State. This difference is indefensible. The attempt therefore to abolish it is laudable. I have no doubt, this reform will improve the condition of the zamin ryot. It will put him in direct relation to the State, it will give him the same facilities for redress of grievances as are being enjoyed by his brother in the ryotwari area, put an end to the ruinous litigation in courts to which he is now subjected and above all, it will enormously help his representative in the legislature to function effectively. I know from experience that such a representative is powerless now to make the Government do anything. Whether it be the repair of an irrigation source, fixing of a proper rate of rent or even proper survey and demarcation, the remedy lies only under the Estates Land Act in courts of law and I know of many cases in which ryots put themselves to ruinous expenditure and received no benefit ultimately. It is hoped all these things will disappear and the Executive will hereafter function as impartially, quickly and effectively as they are supposed to in ryotwari areas.

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“ While on this point, I may say a few words on compensation as well. An idea is expressed in this House and elsewhere that the ryot who is to be benefited should be made to pay. I have no hesitation in saying that there is absolutely no reason or justification for this. What little I have said above is enough to bring home to everyone that the troubles which the zamin ryot has been suffering all these days were not of his making but were forced on him by outside agency. They were solely due to an indefensible Act of State. If the State now recognizes its mistake and corrects it, it is doing nothing more than what is justly due to the ryot. It is in no sense conferring any benefit on the ryot but only removing an injustice to which he had been subjected for ages and to ask him to pay for such a thing is only adding insult to injury. The State will be perfectly justified in spending its funds for such a purpose. But let us examine the question further and see if, in fact, anyone else than the zamin ryot himself is paying for this relief.

“ The Government are sure to get an income from the estates. Though the amount of the income is disputed, the Rs. 49 lakhs which represents the peshkush is still there. Can it not be construed that the Government is paying this compensation from out of this amount. If the Government borrows the amount, they can repay it in instalments from this sum. If the Government set apart this Rs. 49 or Rs. 50 lakhs a year for at least 20 years—I do not think it will work for a longer period—the amount can be repaid. But in fact the Government is sure to make a profit and there can be no doubt that really nobody else but the zamin ryot pays for his own emancipation. Even if we take it that the net result will be that the Government cannot get anything more even in the future, the Government will be justified if it uses the whole amount for compensation. The amount of compensation now being paid can be considered to be repaid from this amount. The Government will be perfectly justified in losing this income and using it for such a laudable object intended to improve the economic condition of two-thirds of the ryot population, even as they are foregoing Rs. 17 crores for prohibition and spending enormous sums on such unremunerative but nation-building services as Education, Health, Sanitation and Communications. The theory therefore that the whole nation is paying for this reform has no basis at all to stand. While on this I may say another word. The Government will be well advised if they expedite the payment of compensation even in their lifetime. New constitution may come into force very soon and none can prophecy who will be in charge of the future destinies of this Province. Therefore the reputation of the Government is at stake and the sooner it is done the better. The ideal of the Congress is not to impoverish any particular class of society but to raise all classes to the proper level. It would therefore be consistent with Congress ideals if the present Government devises methods to see that this measure is fully implemented even during their own lifetime.

“ Unfortunately, the cordial atmosphere of the House was disturbed while discussing the amendment relating to the rules to be framed under the Bill. The original Bill provided that the

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rules should be approved by both the Houses, but was changed in the Select Committee. The Government of India Act has no doubt made a difference between the two Houses in some respects. But short of that, I am particularly anxious that nothing should be done to injure the prestige of either House. Both the Houses are but two limbs of one whole organization. I daresay that they will be ready and willing to co-operate with the Government in every way and help them in going forward with their programmes. Anything which gives rise to a sense of inferiority or superiority between them should be scrupulously avoided. Rivalry between the two Houses should be wholly deplored. Bills, resolutions and various other motions have to come before both the Houses and the present Bill itself was approved by both the Houses. While so, why should the rules alone be excluded from this House? Why should such a change be made in the Select Committee? The result of the change has been that this House was obliged to vote against its own prestige. This should be avoided at all costs. I have no objection whatsoever to the Government carrying forward its policy with the help of its majority. It cannot function otherwise. Even the Opposition cannot object to it. But when it comes to the prestige of the House, I think the Members of this House on the Committee and on the Cabinet should be particularly careful to see it is not in any way affected. I quite see the anxiety of the Hon. Revenue Minister that the Bill should become law without any delay. Utter confusion prevails in the zamindaris and the sooner the Bill becomes law the better both for the zamindars and the ryots. But at the same time, I wish this difference was not allowed to creep in. The Hon. Minister said that personally he did not like the change. I wish he had brought forward suitable amendments in the Assembly and got it through along with other amendments and I am sure he would have done so if his attention had been drawn to it. I am sure that all this confusion was not deliberate or intended by anyone. This aspect seems to have escaped the notice of everyone—Select Committee members, Members who are on the Cabinet and perhaps myself. When the Hon. Minister promised to rectify it in one of the ways suggested by him, I think the Opposition ought to have been satisfied. I am sure the Government is anxious to take the whole House with them including the Opposition. The fact that in spite of their assured majority the Hon. Ministers take great pains to explain things and convince hon. Members is proof positive that they do not want to rule by majority. That is as it should be. Otherwise it is no democracy. If this is conceded, the Opposition should be ready to understand the Government's difficulty and meet them half-way and not non-co-operate with them especially in a matter like this which seems to have escaped the notice of everybody.

“The other two Bills passed in this session are also important in improving the social conditions of society. The Libraries Bill is a good one; the library movement, we all know, is a very good movement; and the whole world owes a great deal to this movement; but I wish there were no separate organizations set up in

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this Bill. Committees of local bodies, with co-opted members, including ladies of course, would have been enough. A separate organization means a separate office, a separate establishment for management and collection, and it may eat away the meagre amounts at their disposal. Again, I wish the surcharge also was avoided. It may become not only unpopular but very difficult of collection and possibly expensive, especially in the rural areas.

"I hope that the Government will see that this Library Bill is fully implemented in all its aspects, and I sincerely trust that it would help in removing illiteracy in this country.

"The other Bill, the Aliyasantana Bill, is intended to improve the social condition of a particular class of people, and I hope that will also conduce to the well-being of that particular community and would be of great benefit to an important section of the population of this Province.

"I intended to say something about the Bigamy Marriages Bill; but that Bill has been put off.

"I thank the hon. Members including the Opposition for their great diligence and devotion to duty which have been expressed in so many ways in this House. I hope the remarks which I made just now and which I thought I ought to make, especially about the Government, will be taken in the spirit in which they were intended, and I sincerely trust such instances will not be repeated in the future. I may just say how anxious I am to retain the good relations between the two Houses. I have always refrained from referring to the Assembly as the 'Lower House' though perhaps we may be justified in calling it the 'Lower House'; according to the Constitution. I have always called it the 'Other House' and I hope they will also do the same thing with regard to us. I am anxious to retain the good relations between the two Houses, and I request the hon. Members of the other House will take my remarks in the spirit in which they were intended; and I also feel that the Hon. Minister will bring in another measure to remove the defects pointed out."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, with your permission, I should like to make a statement. The Opposition thanks you very much for the observations you have made regarding the protection of the prestige of this House. Sir, in a democratic form of Government, the opposition is as necessary as the Government itself; and as I have said previously I do not want to flatter you you are an ornament to this House and both sections of the House are proud of you and I trust your advice will be valued. Sir, all men in public life including Members of Government and Members of the Opposition are always on their trial. The Houses of Legislature is the forum in which the Government are tried. If this House is to function efficiently, its usefulness should not be impaired. And I, as Leader of the Opposition, am very firm in the position that anything that touches prejudicially the right, the privilege, the prestige and the usefulness of this House will not be tolerated by the Opposition. Now, I want to assure you, Sir, as you have been very unhappy on account of our non-co-operation

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in respect of the Zamindari Bill—a very important Bill—I want to assure you that the cordial relationship between the Government and the Opposition will remain and will continue, and we shall forget all that has happened; and we hope the Minister will bring forward a measure to amend section 40. I want also to draw the attention of the public to the fact that although we had given notice of many amendments to the sections following section 40 and we did not move them; the public did not suffer on that account because in the general discussion stage where the Deputy President gave us very good opportunity for a full and free discussion, we discussed everything fully and expressed our points of view on the amendments, which we intended to move in the House. Therefore, our points were not lost at all and even if we had moved the amendments, we would have simply repeated and reiterated what we said during the general discussion. Therefore, nothing was lost as far as public interest was concerned but one thing I regret and I regret very much. It was my intention and the intention of my friends also belonging to the Opposition to pay a very high compliment to the Hon. Minister for Revenue, Sri Kala Venkata Rao for his devotion, his thoroughness, his sincerity and the high level of discussions we had, and also the manner in which he piloted that Bill through this House. We wanted to give him that compliment which I do now. He is an ornament to any Government; and the Government ought to be proud of Sri Kala Venkata Rao. Although he is not a lawyer, he knew the facts and the law so well that we got all assistance from him in the discussion of the Bill. Of course, we did not agree with him in respect of many provisions of the Bill. But we are all here to express our differences of opinion and our points of view. And I am glad to find that you agreed in this measure with the Government; and perhaps if you were a Member of Government, you would have had a struggle with Sri Kala Venkata Rao to take his place in the piloting of this Bill. Sir, we forget all controversy when a Bill is passed. Actually, we are not an irresponsible Opposition. In two measures, we gave our blessings—to the Library and the Aliyasantana Bills—even as we fought with Mr. Madhava Menon on the Agriculturists Relief Amendment Bill. As far as I am concerned, Sir, I am friends with all the Ministers; I do not even mister any one of them. But friendship does not count in this House at all. I am very chummy with Mr. Madhava Menon, but when the measure comes up and wherever there is to be criticism, there is neither friendship nor enmity as far as the Opposition is concerned; we discharge our duties without fear or favour. And although the Bill is passed, which according to you and many others, will be of great benefit to the people—I mean the Zamindari Abolition Bill—we do not regret it. You know, as a lawyer, we do not look at the result of the case; we argue the case and leave the responsibility for decision to courts. So, in this case, the responsibility is that of the House, and the House passed it. We welcome it; and always whenever a measure is passed, even like the Prohibition Bill, what the Opposition should do is to be do their best to implement the Bill and to assist the Government, although it might be that we opposed it when the measure was

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originally brought forward. I want to assure you, Sir, and the hon. Members on the other side that the Opposition is quite at peace with the Government, our relations are quite as cordial as before and we have forgotten the incident except that we hope that the Government will not repeat this and there will not be in any measure of the future any discrimination shown between the other House and this House—I do not want also to call it the 'Lower House.—the Assembly and the Council. If that is done, we shall not fight them; but if that is not done, we will fight them. But, as I said, I am quite sure this will not be repeated. As you said, Sir, it was a slip. Sir, you are a good judge of what happened. Nobody's attention was attracted to it and it was a mistake; I am quite sure Government will rectify that mistake and the Leader of the House must be anxious to keep the prestige of the House even more than the Leader of the Opposition.

"I thank you, Sir, very much for intervening in this matter."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The House stands adjourned *sine die*."

IV.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

G.O. No. 1047, Food, dated 19th November 1948, regarding reconstitution and revival of District Food Committees and Rationing Advisory Committees.

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TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS